

BLACK SNAKE COOPERATIVE WEED
MANAGEMENT AREA

YEAR 2003

END OF YEAR REPORT

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STEERING COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION:

The BSCWMA had another successful year with many partners cooperating in noxious weed control efforts. Mapping/monitoring and Awareness were high priority activities and these efforts have been positively received by the community. Drought conditions challenged control efforts, however many acres were successfully treated. Partners were encouraged to stay active and new partners were developed as very active cooperators. Monitoring for new invaders is continuing throughout the area by all partners including youth of the community. The steering committee of the BSCWMA truly believes that the formation of the CWMA has impacted the community in a positive manner.

AWARENESS:

It is difficult to measure the success of a weed awareness program. However, the positive and growing feedback from the community encouraged the BSCWMA partners to expand their awareness campaign and make weed awareness their number one priority for 2003 activities. A newly developed partnership with the Blackfoot River Watershed Council and its diverse membership opened many doors for weed management. The BSCWMA was an active partner with this council by providing weed management training, giving support to and sponsoring two scheduled workshop/tours with this group. The BSCWMA also continued its sponsorship of the "Inherit Idaho" day at the end of summer and expanded all existing awareness programs throughout 2003. Many entities, both inside and outside the BSCWMA partnership, provided in-kind contributions toward this information and education effort.

STUDENT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

High School Students are an untapped resource for the desired weed information highway and the future possibilities are endless. As pilot projects, students have given talks and PowerPoint presentations, developed printed material, created usable maps, worked with the news media, created "new" methods of and messages for weed awareness, and have even gone door-to-door, addressing weed issues in the community. Many in-kind hours have been spent in the classroom by students and many in-kind hours have been volunteered by the teachers, agency personnel, BSCWMA partners and others that the students consulted as mentors for the development of their final products. One new program sponsored the development of written hand-out material which was distributed at each of the presentations. The material was directed specifically to the attending audience. Presentations, visual aids, hand-outs, training, news articles and communication were major accomplishments of the student program. The needed financial assistance was for printing, material, transportation, equipment (digital camera) and compensation for students (3rd year weed program students) who conducted the program. We are requested cost-share of \$5,400 to conduct this program.

WAR ON WEEDS:

Documenting and informing the public of weed infestations are essential parts of the BSCWMA mission. Partners for this project year included IDL, BOR, NRCS, BLM,

INEEL, IDF&G, PowerCWMA, USRCWMA, Fort Hall Indian Reservation, canal companies, Bingham County, Soil Conservation Districts, schools and numerous folks from the private and industry sectors. Continued mapping projects were the Snake River and canals, grazing association lands, state endowment lands, BOR lands, county lands and other private land as requested. New mapping projects were CRP lands in Bingham County in cooperation with the Farm Service Agency, and the Blackfoot River Corridor in cooperation with the Blackfoot River Watershed Council. Projects expanded beyond weed mapping were: 1) some returning students obtained their chemical applicator's license and applied chemicals as directed; 2) others organized work days and group volunteers for mechanical weed control; 3) assisted with research by setting up test plots for both chemical and non-conventional weed control; 4) monitored the control activities of the last 2 years and documented results; 5) researched and documented bio-control activities; 6) monitored all areas for new invaders. The success of this program was only possible with the enthusiastic in-kind contribution of partners and the financial support of ISDA.

SEARCH AND DESTROY – EIGA:

Richard Reid from Eastern Idaho Grazing Association (EIGA) was the project leader. This follow-up project involved state endowment lands, BLM and private EIGA lands. Bingham County, IDL and EIGA supplied man-power and equipment. Since this was a continuation project, the priority was to monitor and spot-treat as necessary, lands already treated. More areas in the Horse Creek Allotment were treated, as additional funding became available. The primary weeds of concern were houndstongue, musk thistle and poison hemlock. The Search & Destroy project coordinated with all partners involved and student mapping activities to ensure efficiency. Approximately 56 acres were spot treated with chemicals and sites identified for insect releases.

CEDAR CREEK:

The second year of the Cedar Creek project was conducted this year. Members of the Cedar Creek Grazing Association were very pleased with the past year's efforts and continued the project. Efforts focused on follow-up and expanded control methods. Bob Brammer from IDPL was project leader and coordinated personnel from IDL, Bingham County and the grazing association. 15 acres of trails, roads, slash piles and water sets were treated.

EAST BLACKFOOT:

This project was designed to assist landowners with the chemical control of puncturevine and Russian knapweed. Infestations occur on roadways, driveways, pastures, fence lines, pivot corners, and ditch banks in this area east of Blackfoot, Idaho. The BSCWMA, Bingham County and private landowners participated in this project and shared responsibility equally for needed manpower, equipment and chemicals. The BSCWMA provided the necessary training of application rates and calibration. 41 acres were treated in this area with chemicals.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

Each year more and more landowners are approaching the BSCWMA for assistance in noxious weed control and this trend continued during 2003. In each case the BSCWMA worked with the landowner in the field to identify weed issues and develop a plan for control. The BSCWMA and landowner were each responsible for 50% of the necessary labor, equipment and chemicals for each project. 37 landowners participated in treating 138 acres of land.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The BSCWMA renewed its agreement with the Three Rivers RC&D Council to administer all ISDA cost-share funds. Three Rivers also assisted with in-kind tracking and provided other necessary administration activities.

Steering Committee

Chairman	Vice Chair	Secretary
Paul Muirbrook	Richard Reid	Jody Hogan
Bingham County	EIGA	Three Rivers RC&D
Aberdeen, ID	Blackfoot, ID	Pocatello, ID
Phone: 785-8066	Phone: 785-3286	Phone: 237-5041
Pmuir@dcdi.net		Paula.Jones@id.usda.gov

Gary Eckhardt	John Franson	Cleone Jolley
Master Gardener	Wilber-Ellis Co.	Bingham County
Blackfoot, ID	Blackfoot, ID	Shelley, ID
Phone: 785-1200	Phone: 785-3376	Phone: 785-5005
Bob Brammer		
IDL		
Idaho Falls, ID		
Phone: 525-7167		